

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 AID-20 HEW-08 SCI-06 DRC-01 /109 W

----- 050023

R 091530Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3624

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

CONFIDENTIAL MANAGUA 0902

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB NU

SUBJECT: ANOTHER HOSPITAL STRIKE

1. RESIDENTS AND INTERNS AT MANAGUA'S VELEZ PAIZ HOSPITAL WENT ON STRIKE MAR 7 AND ANNOUNCED THAT IF THEIR DEMANDS WERE NOT MET STRIKES WOULD SPREAD TO OTHER HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY. LABOR MINISTER REPORTS THAT EIGHT OF NINE DEMANDS HAVE BEEN GRANTED. HOWEVER, INTERNS AND RESIDENTS ASKING 100 PERCENT SALARY INCREASE AND HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION IS OFFERING ONLY 10 PERCENT.

2. EMPLOYEES OF ALL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE EMPLOYEES HELD CONSULTATIONS RECENTLY, AND THREAT TO ESCALATE STRIKE TO OTHER HEALTH FACILITIES SEEMS LIKELY IF EARLY SETTLEMENT NOT REACHED. EMBASSY ALREADY HAS REPORT THAT INTERNS AT SOCIAL SECURITY HOSPITAL IN JINOTEPE PLAN TO WALK OUT MAR 9 AND PRESS REPORTS LEADER OF ASSOCIATION OF INTERNS AND RESIDENTS CLAIMS THAT HOSPITALS IN LEON, CHINANDEGA, MATAGALPA, AND CORINTO WILL FOLLOW.

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3. ABRAHAM ROSSMAN CASTILLA, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE, WHO HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY BLAMED BY SOME CRITICS FOR PROBLEMS IN NICARAGUA'S HEALTH SYSTEM, WAS FIRED THE DAY THE STRIKE AT VELEZ PAIZ STARTED.

4. PROSPECTS ARE DIM THAT THE HOSPITAL STRIKE CAN BE SETTLED WITHOUT PROLONGED NEGOTIATIONS. BOTH GON AND STRIKE LEADERS SEEM DETERMINED AND UNWILLING TO COMPROMISE AT THIS POINT. STRIKE WILL PROBABLY BECOME WIDESPREAD AND INVOLVE OTHER EMPLOYEES OF HEALTH SECTOR, I. E. NURSES, NURSES-AIDES, AND OTHER HOSPITAL WORKERS. COORDINATION BY LOCAL HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES WITH THOSE OF SOCIAL SECURITY HOSPITALS IS NEW DEVELOPMENT AND MAY PRESENT GOVERNMENT WITH A UNITED FRONT IN CONFRONTATION WITH HEALTH SECTOR EMPLOYEES. GON CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY THAT STRIKES WILL ALSO SPREAD TO OTHER SECTORS, E. G. BUS DRIVERS, CONSTRUCTION, ETC.

SHELTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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